SPECIAL 48 PAGE ISSUE!
FURRLOUGH
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ANTHROPOMORPHIC
3RD ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

ANTARCTIC BLAST
NOVEMBER 1994

YES, I'M A BIG MEANIE

Shortly after I turned in last month's editorial (STARRY-EYED DREAMERS), Pat Duke came to me and told me what a cool, on-the-mark bit of essaying I'd done. I swelled with pride, thinking, "Well, I must've really hit the target this time!"

It was all downhill from there.

The gist of the responses I got after Pat's, from both within the office and without, was that, gosh, I sure was awfully harsh on those tiny comics companies, and, gee, mightn't I be viewed as a major stone-throwing glass-house resident for beating up on publishers smaller than our own still-not-so-big company? The swollen balloon of my pride burst, flew around the room with a farting sound and flopped in the corner trash can with all the pencil shavings.

So what have I learned from this? (Aside from the fact that Pat is either my only true friend, or the only one who thinks I'm important enough to brown-nose to?)

Nothing! Ha-Ha! Yes, I am evil and want all crappy comic companies to die! Those things I said about sympathizing with little start-up companies, about giving them their due, about the importance of taking the time to at least look at every comic on the shelves, just in case it might turn out to be worthwhile . . . LIES! Kill them all! Burn their books and choke them on the ashes! Worse yet, force them to read *each others'* books, *then* kill them! Bury them as mummies in pyramids with copies of all their books so that they have to suffer through eternity with only caca to read! Antarctic Press is the only good small comics publisher! Others are unfit to have my sinuses emptied on them! When I said the comics industry is about the willingness to indulge someone else's dreams, I really meant the willingness to indulge *Antarctic Press'* dreams! The dreams of all others are dog vomit!

Uh . . . oops. Oh no. I'm sorry. That was awfully much.

I didn't mean it, really.

I'm a bad person.

I apologize.

Please don't see that my name is cursed and spat upon for all time.

BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS . . .

The market trundles along on its way, and there are two ways of viewing some of the current trends:

(1) Oh no, please, no! The direct sales market is drying up; distributors refuse to carry books by many small companies due to poor sales; retailers focus on known quantities and ignore many new independents; all is lost!

This view may very well be accurate. If so, it spells doom for most companies smaller than ours, and maybe even for us, in the long run. If a given retailer or distributor wants to avoid being burned by bad comics, the path of least resistance is simply to avoid ordering most independents. There are, after all, so many bad ones out there, so why waste the time on them?

(2) More realistically, and less pessimistically, I think the true fact of the matter is that retailers and distributors are being choosier, but often in a more informed manner. Matt High, our Sales and Promotions Wizard, recently went on a multinational, multiconvention tour (okay, he drove to Canada) and spoke with some of our distributors and many of our retailing customers along the way. The general consensus was that retailers want more information before they'll order a book, and that distributors are preparing as best they can to give it to them. We at Antarctic Press are going to try to do our part by providing the distributors with as much information and artwork as we can, and by sending out promotional copies to retailers wherever feasible.

An informed market is a stronger market. Most of the booms and busts of recent years can be traced to indiscriminate ordering, with everyone from the off-the-street customer to the biggest distributors buying up comics they hoped would be hot. I think we're moving into a phase now where all parties in the chain realize they have to be smarter . . . mostly because end readers are tired of bad comics, and pure speculation is dying off a bit.

In the short run, this may be bad for independents, especially the smallest ones. As the market undergoes a weeding out, there may be some choice petunias that get pitched along with the crabgrass. I hope there are no real tragedies along the way . . . the runaway successes of books like **Bone** and **Strangers In Paradise** lead me to believe that talent *will* eventually find its way to success. But a lot of independent companies are hurting right now, and it's probably going to get worse before it gets better.

My feeling, though, is that it will get better. The companies who remain after the shakedown will be better organized, and any new companies will have to come into the market better prepared in order to make it. I'm hoping that this means the average quality of the starry-eyed dreamers who get their books to the shelves will go up in the coming year or so.

If not, then maybe I'll get to write a *really* mean editorial.

Editor in Chief

A QUESTION OF DIVERSITY

This December, along with the rest of our books, we will be offering a fresh batch of comics. This lineup is called *Antarctic Alternatives*. I know we've mentioned them some in the past, but I think they deserve another mention here.

Our little comic book market is maturing; painfully slow it seems at times —but nonetheless— it is being dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 90's. Tolerance for more experimental comics, different genres and attitudes are bringing new readers into the fold. I attribute a significant portion of our phenomenal growth this year to the fact that we are servicing this largely untapped market. Many industry leaders are looking to successful foreign markets like Japan for clues on how they can get more people to participate in our medium. As most of our enlightened readers know, Japanese comics (manga) are often as big as phonebooks, and cover every subject under the sun including baseball, golfing and cooking. In Japan there is a comic for almost every type of reader —no potential audience is left untapped.

In America, things developed differently. Comics were largely considered a "childish" form of entertainment, and most companies aimed their material at younger audiences. Is it any surprise that their audience finally outgrew them?

That's all old news. The new buzz these days is "diversity". Distributors, afraid that the old superhero market is drying up, are trying to expand a second market for "alternative" material. I find it ironic that the "diversity" buzzword has found its way on to Image ads. Do they think their comics are *that* groundbreaking, *that* different from what we've already seen or is currently available from other companies? I certainly don't see them expanding secondary markets. Their strategy of milking the same tired market is short-sighted and ultimately self-defeating.

Antarctic Press is committed to expanding the market and attracting people outside the existing comic book readership. But don't take my word for it: I think our actions speak louder than our words. We've been publishing a lot of critically acclaimed titles, manga (one of the fastest-growing genres today) like Ninja High School and many other "alternative" titles for a *decade*. We're not new at this. Diversity isn't just a buzzword we attach to our ads to sell more copies. We're offering real solutions to insure the safety and future expansion of the industry.

Our latest efforts include Schizo, Naked Eye and Private Beach (which will be out in January). If you're into "alternative" or "diverse" material, please check them out; I know you'll be pleased. These new books are the culmination of a lot of dreams, and hard work, and I think they represent some of the best we have to offer.

—PAT

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases

RELEASE DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

- ☐ **Dodekain #1**
- ☐ **Sentai #5 (Full Color)**
- ☐ **Furrlough #23 (48 Page Special)**
- ☐ **Furrlough T-Shirt**
- ☐ **Ninja High School #43**
- ☐ **Twilight-X Quarterly #2**
- ☐ **Knightmare #3**
- ☐ **Konny and Czu #2**
- ☐ **Tigers of Terra v2 #6**
- ☐ **Shanda the Panda #6**
- ☐ **Silbuster #6**
- ☐ **Gold Digger #17**
- ☐ **Hitomi: Geohammer #7**
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- ☐ **Amazing Strip #9 (Venus)**
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- ☐ **Emblem #6 (Venus)**
- ☐ **Mangazine #16 (relist)**
- ☐ **Antares Circle #1 (relist)**
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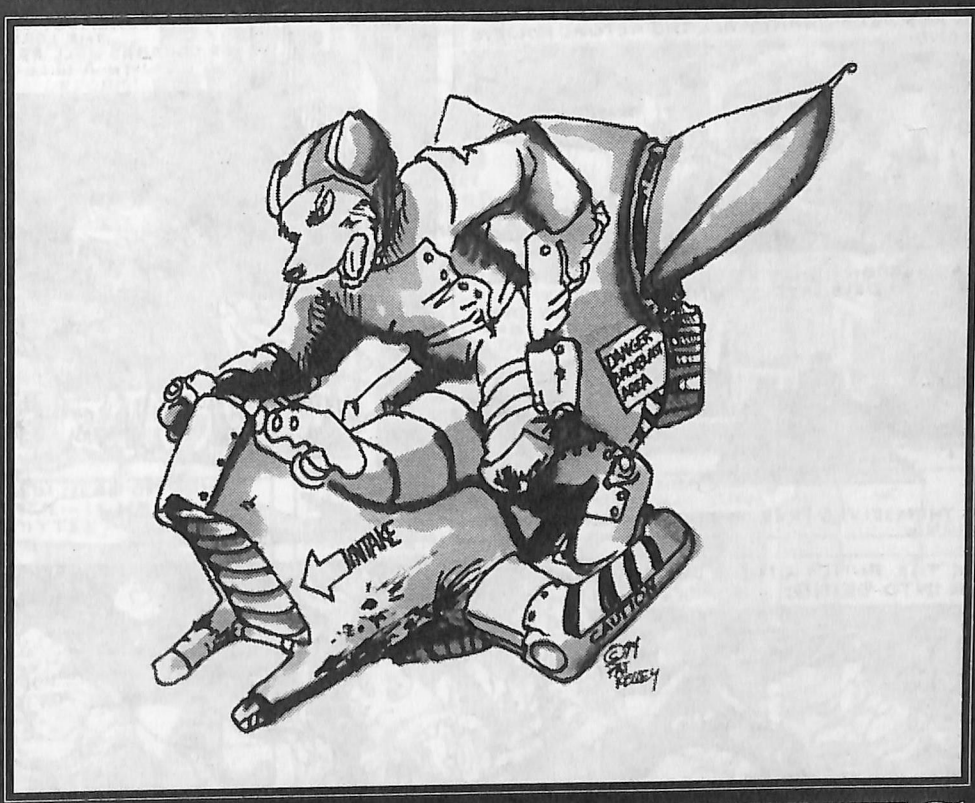

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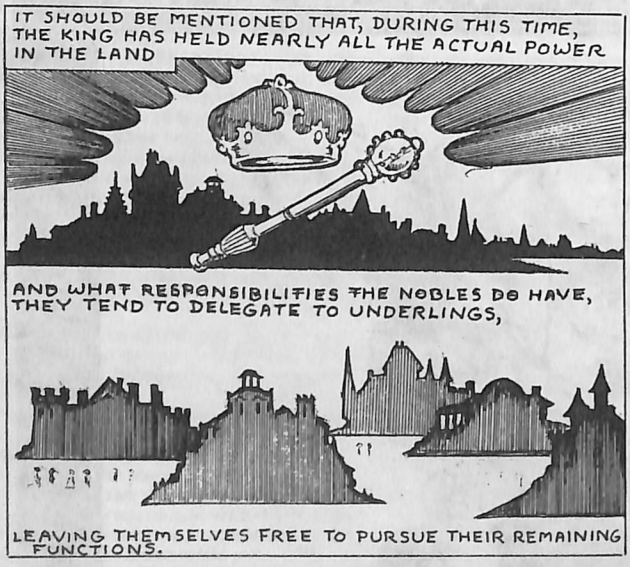
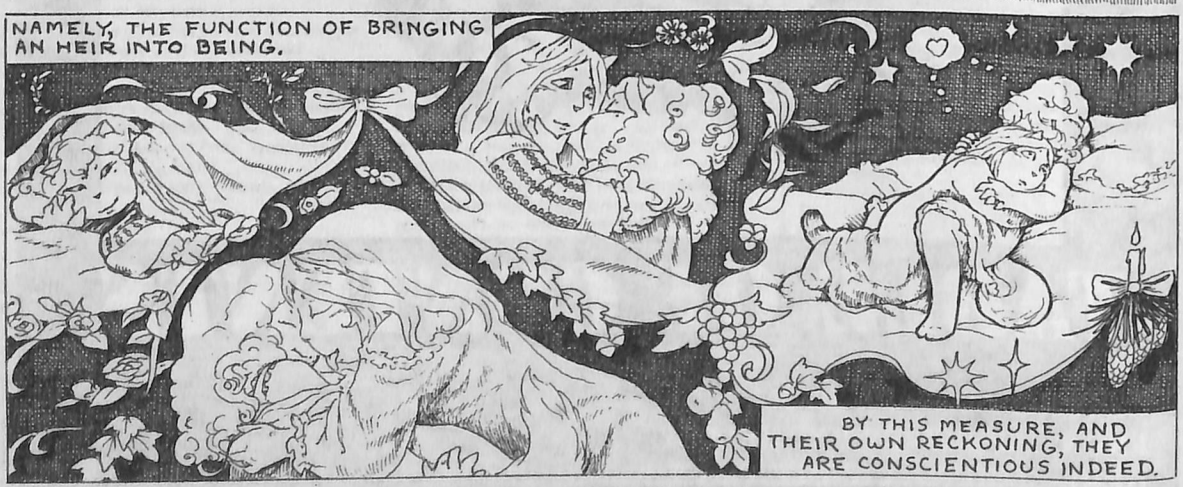
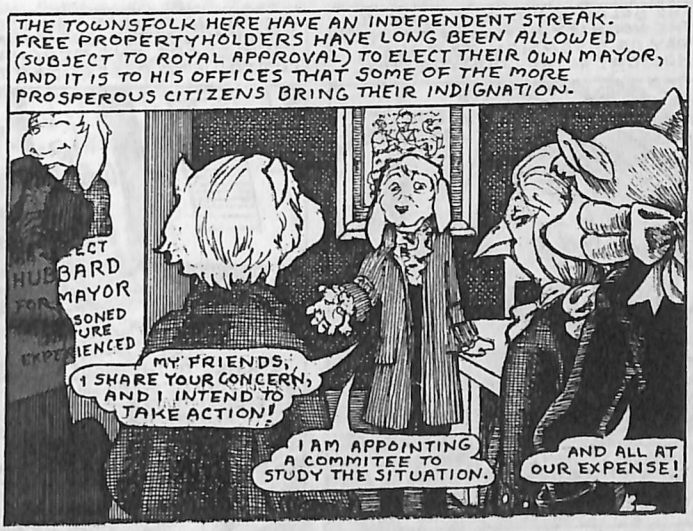
Here Comes a Candle Part 7


IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT, DURING THIS TIME, THE KING HAS HELD NEARLY ALL THE ACTUAL POWER IN THE LAND
AND WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES THE NOBLES DO HAVE, THEY TEND TO DELEGATE TO UNDERLINGS,
LEAVING THEMSELVES FREE TO PURSUE THEIR REMAINING FUNCTIONS.


NAMELY, THE FUNCTION OF BRINGING AN HEIR INTO BEING.
BY THIS MEASURE, AND THEIR OWN RECKONING, THEY ARE CONSCIENTIOUS INDEED.

AND TO SHOW THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO DO NOT VIEW THE SITUATION IN THE SAME LIGHT.
---AND YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU WHAT THE HIGHBORN DO, THERE IN THEIR GREAT HOUSES, DAY AND NIGHT?
JUST WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING TO US COMMONFOLK FOR CENTURIES WITHOUT END!

THE REFORM HAS FOUND FERTILE GROUND IN TUFFET-ON-THE-GREEN.
WE ARE ALL FREE CITIZENS. LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF REFORM!
WE ASK ONLY THAT OUR OWN RIGHTS MAY BE HONORED BY KING AND NOBLES ALIKE
EQUALITY
HAS BEEN DENIED LONG OUR CAUSE IS THE INTERESTS OF ALL
JOIN US
MISTER ANTON! YOU'VE SEEN THIS OUTRAGE?
AND NOW, THEY MAKE SO BOLD AS TO VENTURE INTO THE BETTER PARTS OF TOWN!


THE TOWNSFOLK HERE HAVE AN INDEPENDENT STREAK. FREE PROPERTYHOLDERS HAVE LONG BEEN ALLOWED (SUBJECT TO ROYAL APPROVAL) TO ELECT THEIR OWN MAYOR, AND IT IS TO HIS OFFICES THAT SOME OF THE MORE PROSPEROUS CITIZENS BRING THEIR INDIGNATION.
MY FRIENDS, I SHARE YOUR CONCERN, AND I INTEND TO TAKE ACTION!
I AM APPOINTING A COMMITEE TO STUDY THE SITUATION.
AND ALL AT OUR EXPENSE!

AND THE NEW HEAD OF YOUR TOWN COUNCIL--IS HE ON THIS COMMITTEE?
IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT I WAS FORCED TO NAME A REFORMER TO THE POST, TO KEEP THE RIFFRAFF QUIET.

AS FOR THE RIFFRAFF YOUR HONOR WOULD DO WELL TO CLEAR THE STREETS OF SUCH, BEFORE THE KING'S FAVORITES MAKE THEIR ARRIVAL.
A PRETTY SIGHT THEY'LL BE FOR OUR NOBLE VISITORS, SOME IN RAGS AND SOME IN TAGS; WHY CAN'T THEY SHOW SOME CIVIC PRIDE, AS WE DO?

AND WELL YOU MIGHT! HAVEN'T WE A NEW TOWN HALL AND AN OPERA HOUSE? WE ARE NEARLY A MATCH FOR THE CAPITAL, IN SOPHISTICATION.

THE VISITORS IN QUESTION ARE, IN FACT, EXPECTED, SINCE THE VOGUE FOR COUNTRY SIMPLICITY IS NOW AT ITS HEIGHT.
--AND THE TOWN IS SO QUAINT, DARLING! THEY HAVE BUT ONE OPERA HOUSE.
YOU DON'T MEAN IT! HOW DELICIOUSLY PRIMITIVE!

THE BOLDEST PIONEERS AMONG THE NOBILITY HAVE IT IN MIND, BY WAY OF DIVERSION, TO MAKE A HOLIDAY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
BUT, YES! IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF IT, MOTHER AND I ARE MAKING DO WITH ONLY TEN SERVANTS!
BRAVE FLOUNCEE! I PURCHASED AN ENTIRE NEW WARDROBE. IT MEANT HAVING TO RAISE RENTS ON MY ESTATES, BUT I AM WORTH IT.

UNWILLING TO LOSE THE GOOD CUSTOM SUCH EXQUISITES WILL BRING INTO THEIR SHOPS, THE MERCHANTS CONTINUE TO BELEAGUER THE MAYOR.
I DO NOT TRUCKLE TO THE MOB! I AM SOLIDLY BEHIND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY!
BEST CLOSE THE WINDOW, YOUR HONOR, I HEAR A RUMBLING. IF IT'S THUNDER, WE'LL SOON BE ALL WET---

ELSEWHERE---
LAWYER HAMELIN IS WITH US? HE'LL BE A VALUABLE ALLY AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS.
I SUSPECT HIS HONOR IS CONFERRING BEHIND YOUR BACK. SAW THE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION GO INTO THE TOWN HALL---

THEY'RE BEGINNING TO BE AFRAID OF US.
BUT THE CAUSE IS THEIRS, TOO! WE'RE ALL COMMONFOLK, CAN'T THEY SEE THAT?
THAT BUNCH, THEY THINK ONLY OF THEIR PURSES.
IF WE WAIT FOR THEM TO SEE REASON, WE MIGHT AS WELL WAIT FOR THE LIBERTY-FAIRY TO COME AND GRANT US OUR RIGHTS!
SOMEONE CALLS ON ME?

ME, I DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRIES.
I'D BETTER GET OVER TO THE TOWN HALL--- GOOD-DAY.

DICKYBIRD'S DEDICATED, BUT MORE TO HIS OWN AMBITION THAN TO THE REFORM SOMETIMES. WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE THE COUNCIL POST?
IF ALL GOES AS IT SHOULD, I'LL SOON HAVE WORK TO DO IN THE CAPITAL.
YOU'D HAVE MADE A GOOD CHOICE, WITH YOUR ELOQUENCE, BUT THE TIMES SEEM TO CALL FOR A YOUNG FIREBRAND.
THE REFORM IS GAINING IN STRENGTH. IF THERE IS HOPE, YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN IMPORTANT IN BRINGING IT ABOUT.

IMPORTANT--!
YES, I'VE GIVEN NEARLY EVERYTHING FOR THE CAUSE.
MY EXISTENCE HAS SERVED ONE WORTHWHILE PURPOSE.
So encouraged was I, that for the first time in years, I essayed a few lines of verse.

I had in Mind that a Satire on the Excesses of the Privileged might cause the Merchants to think —
AND HERE'S WHERE I DO THAT BOX ONE BETTER, AT LEAST —
They came with their Lackeys and Bootlicks and Hangers-on, Trumpeters, Drummers and Harpsichord Bangers-on — Furbelows flying and Frupperies slipping Flummeries fluttering, Diamonds dripping Off ye Tiaras of Lady and Liege, This ought to be a most colorful Siege!
CLOP
CRUSH
SHRIEK!
MY SON! YOU RAN RIGHT OVER MY SON!
HEY! I TOOTED, DIDN'T I?
HIS LEG'S BROKEN, YOU DON'T CARE? AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING
>SIGH< VERY WELL. BORROW THIS, IF YOU MUST-- OR AM I TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF?

DO STOP THAT NOISE! YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE ANOTHER CHILD---
THE MORE FOOL I, EXPECTING HELP OR COMPASSION FROM THE NOBILITY!
BUT, YOU POOR, POOR DEARS! IS THERE ANYTHING -- ANYTHING AT ALL--- I CAN DO TO HELP?
IT WAS DREADFUL-- SIMPLY DREADFUL!
WE WERE DELAYED NEARLY TWENTY MINUTES!
YES, AND IF THEY HADN'T CLEARED THE STREETS--
THERE, THERE, IT'S OVER NOW.
HARDLY! I WAS PRACTICALLY SET UPON BY YOUR TOWN RABBLE. THEN, WE HAD TO AGREE TO MEET WITH A--PFUI!-- DELEGATION FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. OH! I COULD JUST SHUDDER!
YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET THEM HERE, AND TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
BUT--
NOW, NOW! THE INCONVENIENCE TO ME IS OF NO ACCOUNT. YOU MUSTN'T EVEN THINK OF IT!
BUT, ACTUALLY, WE WERE COMING TO VISIT--
--- LORD PUSS-IN-BOOTS? HE HAS AGREED TO JOIN US HERE, AS A FAVOR TO ME, HIS FRIEND.
HIS OWN COTTAGE IS CHARMING, BUT HARDLY SUITABLE FOR A LARGE GATHERING, WHEREAS---
ONE TRIES TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THESE COMMONERS, BUT THEY ABUSE ONE'S TOLERANCE!
IF THEY CONTINUE SO, MARK ME, THEY'LL COME TO EXPECT ONE TO ACTUALLY STOP EVERY TIME SOME GUTTER-BRAT IS IN THE WAY!
YOU EXAGGERATE, OF COURSE---
HMPH! WE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR WHETHER THEY PUNISHED THAT WRETCH FOR UPBRAIDING POOR LORD PIFFLE IN PUBLIC!
HAD WE WISHED TO VIEW UNREST AMONG THE UNWASHED, WE COULD HAVE REMAINED IN THE CAPITAL.

HEAVEN KNOWS, WE'VE SEEN TROUBLE ENOUGH THERE, OF LATE---
BUT AT LEAST IN THE CAPITAL, THE ROYAL TROOPS PROTECT US!
THERE IS INDEED UNREST IN THE CAPITAL, EVEN RIOTING ON OCCASION-- TROUBLE SUFFICIENT TO ROUSE THE ATTENTION OF A NEIGHBORING MONARCH---
THESE DISTURBANCES HAVE A WAY OF SPREADING.
YE PEACEABLE KINGDOM
FERRYLAND
US
THEM
CALL FOR OUR PIPE! CALL FOR OUR BOWL! AND WHERE THE DEVIL IS OUR SPY? CALL FOR HIM, TOO!
STOP!
YE ARE APPROACHING THE BORDER!
COLE'S LAW IS IN FORCE! NO VEGETABLE JOKES
YOUR MAJESTY, I'VE BEEN HERE RIGHT ALONG.
YOU ARE TRULY A MASTER-SPY, GIOTTO. BUT YOU NEED SPY UPON OUR MUSICIANS NO LONGER. WE HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU.
WE CHARGE YOU, GO TO THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM. OBSERVE THEIR CAPITAL. DISCOVER WHETHER THE DISCORDS THERE MIGHT SOMEHOW AFFECT US HERE.
I GO, SIRE.
I NEVER KNEW GIOTTO WAS A SPY!
SEE HOW GOOD HE IS? UNFORTUNATE THAT HE'S NOT VERY FAST.
BACK IN TUFFET-ON-THE-GREEN, ANOTHER FIGURE OF AUTHORITY (ALBEIT ON A SMALLER SCALE) PLANS HIS OWN COURSE OF ACTION.
AM I MAYOR HERE, OR YOU? I KNEW IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME TO HAVE A REFORMER ON THE COUNCIL!
YOU'D NOT HAVE BEEN RE-ELECTED WITHOUT ONE! WE REFORMERS SPEAK OUT FOR THE POPULACE. YOU TRUCKLE TO THE UPPER CLASSES.
THIS CONFERENCE WILL COME TO NOTHING.
I DO NOT TRUCKLE! I SIMPLY EMPLOY GOOD POLITICS, I DON'T TRUCKLE.
YOU KNOW I AM ONE WITH THE COMMONFOLK—
MY OWN FORERUNNERS WERE SO POOR, THEY HAD NOT SO MUCH AS A BONE IN THEIR CUPBOARD!
IN MY YOUTH, I WENT HUNGRY MANY A NIGHT--
I KNOW. EVERYONE KNOWS, IT'S IN YOUR CAMPAIGN SPEECH!

FELLOW CITIZENS!--(AH, MASTER HORNER!)--I SHARE YOUR---(MISTER SPRAT, HOW IS YOUR LOVELY WIFE?) --YOUR CONCERN. WE MUST---(MADAME, A PLEASURE!)--- MUST WORK TOGETHER TO RECONCILE---(OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY, MISTRESS!)--UM--RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES--(I BELIEVE HE NEEDS CHANGING! ;HEH HEH;)
E-ELECT OBBARD
I DO NOT TRUCKLE"
FOR MAYOR
DICKY BIRD
TOWN COUNCIL
HE USUALLY GOES WEEWEE ALL THE WAY HOME, Y'R HONOR.
TAKE CARE! THEY DO NOT THINK AS WE DO, THESE NOBLES, AND THEIR ENMITY CAN BE DANGEROUS!
I'M NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK MY MIND!
THEN AT LEAST USE DISCRETION IN YOUR SPEECH, SIR!
A THOUSAND PITIES THAT YOUR CHARMING LADY WILL NOT BE WITH US.
WELL, MANY HOLD THAT POLITICS ARE A MASCULINE PURSUIT.
MY DEAR ONE DOES NOT CARE FOR POLITICIANS.
OHO! NO WONDER LADY BOUFFANT IS SO INTERESTED. SHE PURSUES ANYTHING EVEN REMOTELY MASCULINE.
IF THAT IS SO, I MUST PURSUE YOU NEXT, MY SWEET, FOR YOU ARE AS REMOTELY MASCULINE AS IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE.
YOU'RE TOO KIND!
GOOD SIRS, GOOD LADIES--PLEASE! IF WE MIGHT ADDRESS THE MATTER AT HAND?
NO ONE WISHES TO SEE A REPETITION OF THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS IN THE CAPITAL. THE CITIZENS HERE ARE GOOD, HONEST FOLK. BUT THE TAXES, THE FAILING CROPS--- HUNGER MAKES TEMPERS SHORT.
A LECTURE? OH, HOW BORING!
AND YOU---YOU MINCE ABOUT IN YOUR PRETTY CLOTHING WHILE OUTSIDE, THEY STARVE!
DO I UNDERSTAND YOU, SIR? ARE YOU SAYING--
IF THEY HUNGER, THEY OUGHT TO BREAK THEIR FAST. THEY'RE NOT BEING SENSIBLE!
--THAT WE SHOULD NOT DO THAT?
A SIMPLE ENOUGH SOLUTION, MAYOR. WERE YOUR COMMONERS TOO STUPID TO THINK OF IT?

SIRS, YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD. THEY--THE POOR--THEY CANNOT EAT, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO FOOD.
WELL, WHY DO THEY NOT SIMPLY TELL THEIR SERVANTS TO BRING THEM SOME?
BETWEEN MAYOR HUBBARD'S CONCILIATORY WORDS AND THE HEAD COUNCIL-MEMBER'S SHARP ONES, COMBINED WITH THE SHORT ATTENTION-SPANS OF THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT THE SUBJECT OF NOT RUNNING OVER THE TOWNSFOLKS' CHILDREN, IS NEVER PROPERLY ADDRESSED.
WELL, YOU WERE NOT MUCH HELP EITHER!
I TOLD YOU THEIR WAY OF THINKING WAS DIFFERENT.
IMPOSSIBLE, IS MORE LIKE IT.
-- AND HE HAD NO ANSWER FOR THAT, I CAN TELL YOU.
THE THINKING OF THESE LOWER CLASSES, SEEMS VERY ODD.
INDEED! WHATEVER DID THE FELLOW THINK MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ONE'S MINCING ABOUT WITHOUT ONE'S PRETTY CLOTHING ON?
I SHOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT.
OH! THOMAS, IT WORKED. I'VE HAD AN INSPIRATION!
I SHALL CONTACT MY FRIENDS IMMEDIATELY. WE CAN ORGANIZE EVENTS FOR CHARITY. IT COULD EVEN BE THIS YEAR'S FASHION!
IMMEDIATELY?

THE COMPASSION OF THE WEALTHY VISITORS BROUGHT IMMEDIATE AND SPECTACULAR RESULTS. THE OPERA THEY STAGED, PROVIDED FUNDS ENOUGH FOR A BALL, THE BALL BROUGHT SUFFICIENT FOR A PARTY. ALL WHO ATTENDED HAD A SPLENDID TIME, AND COULD PERCEIVE NO REASON FOR THE COMMONERS' LACK OF GRATITUDE ---

THIS CHARITY-WORK IS QUITE EXHAUSTING --- OH, NOT THAT I MIND MAKING SUCH SACRIFICES, WHAT IS IT TO BE NEXT, A BANQUET?
OH, BUT YES, DO LET'S!
I KNOW! WE COULD HOLD A CONCERT! THAT WOLFIE, WHO PLAYS SO CHARMINGLY, YOU REMEMBER? SURELY, SINCE IT IS SUCH A GOOD CAUSE, WE MIGHT PERSUADE HIM TO DONATE HIS SERVICES?
NO, THAT WON'T WORK, WOLFIE STARVED TO DEATH SOME TIME AGO.
THAT WAS INCONSIDERATE OF HIM!
YES, OBVIOUSLY HE NEVER HAD OUR SENSITVITY TO THE PLIGHT OF THE LESS FORTUNATE --- BUT COME, THIS CONVERSATION GROWS TIRESOME. IS THAT A MINUET I HEAR?

WOULD IT PUT A SMILE BACK ON YOUR LOVELY FACE IF I BOUGHT YOU THAT DIAMOND NECKLACE YOU'VE BEEN WANTING?
OH! AND THE BRACELET TOO?
NATURALLY! LET US WAIT OUT THIS DANCE--- SOMEHOW, THE NIGHT HAS NEVER SEEMED SO FULL OF STARS!

AND THIS FASHION, TOO, DIED AWAY, AS HAD MANY ANOTHER. IT PASSED WITHOUT GIVING BENEFIT TO THOSE ON WHOSE BEHALF IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY BEGUN,
WHICH WAS A PITY,
FOR THAT WAS A VERY HARD WINTER INDEED.
WHAT DID YOU GET?
TAX NOTICE
SOME KICKS IN THE BACKSIDE. THE RICH FOLKS' GATE-KEEPER WAS FEELING MOST GENEROUS!
YOU TRY AT THE CHURCH? SOMETIMES THEY GIVES OUT FOOD.

-- AND IT WILL BE WORSE YET, UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES.
YOU CALL THESE PRICES?
PIES 15 FESTOONS
YOU CALL THOSE PIES?
IT'S ALL THE INGREDIENTS I HAD! IT'S THESE SHORTAGES--
I'm EVEN OUT OF CURDS AND WHEY.
TOBACCO LEAF PIE (LATAKIA)
DIRT PIE
GRAVEL PIE
SQUASH PIE
CORN PIE
NO WHEY!
GOOD PIES
PIES YOU CAN AFFORD
I FOR ONE AM SICK OF EATING IN THESE OUT-OF-THE-WHEY PLACES.

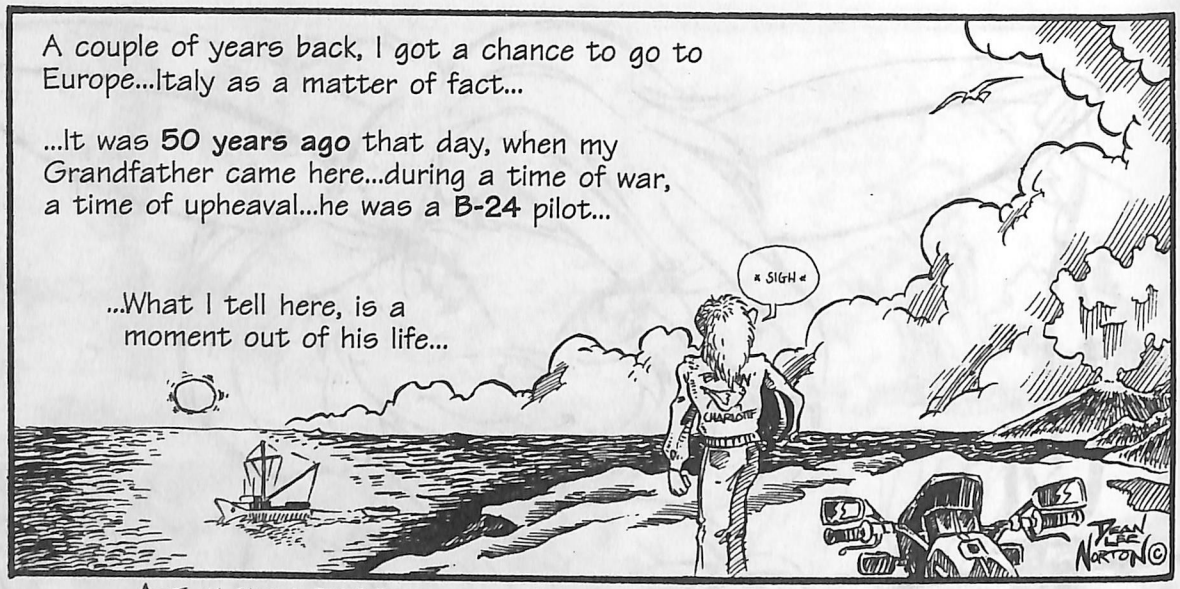
WE MAY CALL OURSELVES REFORMERS, BUT WE REFORM NOTHING!
THERE'S TALK IN THE CAPITAL OF REBELLION.
DANGEROUS TALK, THAT.
MORE DANGEROUS THAN STARVING TO DEATH?
Myself, I had become quite the Radical. While I still hoped the King might take some Action, I had begun to doubt that such Intervention would change Matters for the Better.
The growing Lawlessness, I saw as a Consequence of the Desperate Times, and I was forced to Agree with those who held that a Reckoning was Due.

To Be Continued...

WELCOME BACK TO UNDERREALM
by FRED PERRY ©1994
(SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BUT I'VE BEEN A LITTLE BUSY!...)
GEEZ! IS THAT THE SAME WIMPY LITTLE SERCH THAT DESERTED OUR RANKS A MONTH AGO? HE'S THRASHING THE DEVIL OUT OF OUR CAPTAIN!
DONT INTERFERE! CAPTAIN DARRIK CHALLENGED SERCH TO A FIGHT TO RESTORE HIS HONOR AND GET HIS SISTER TO GIVE UP BEING SERCH'S GIRL-FRIEND..
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SERCH IS GOING TO WIN AND GAIN FREED FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FRIEM INSTEAD!!
BLOCK
PAF
THINK DARRIK'S HAD ENOUGH, RYA?
I DON'T THINK SO... THROW A COMBO ON 'IM!
ALRIGHTY
CONTROL CONTROL
POF
DOF

TO BE CONCLUDED!

Stars 94 in


A couple of years back, I got a chance to go to Europe...Italy as a matter of fact...
...It was 50 years ago that day, when my Grandfather came here...during a time of war, a time of upheaval...he was a B-24 pilot...
...What I tell here, is a moment out of his life...
* SIGH *
CHARLOTTE
DEAN LEE NORTON©

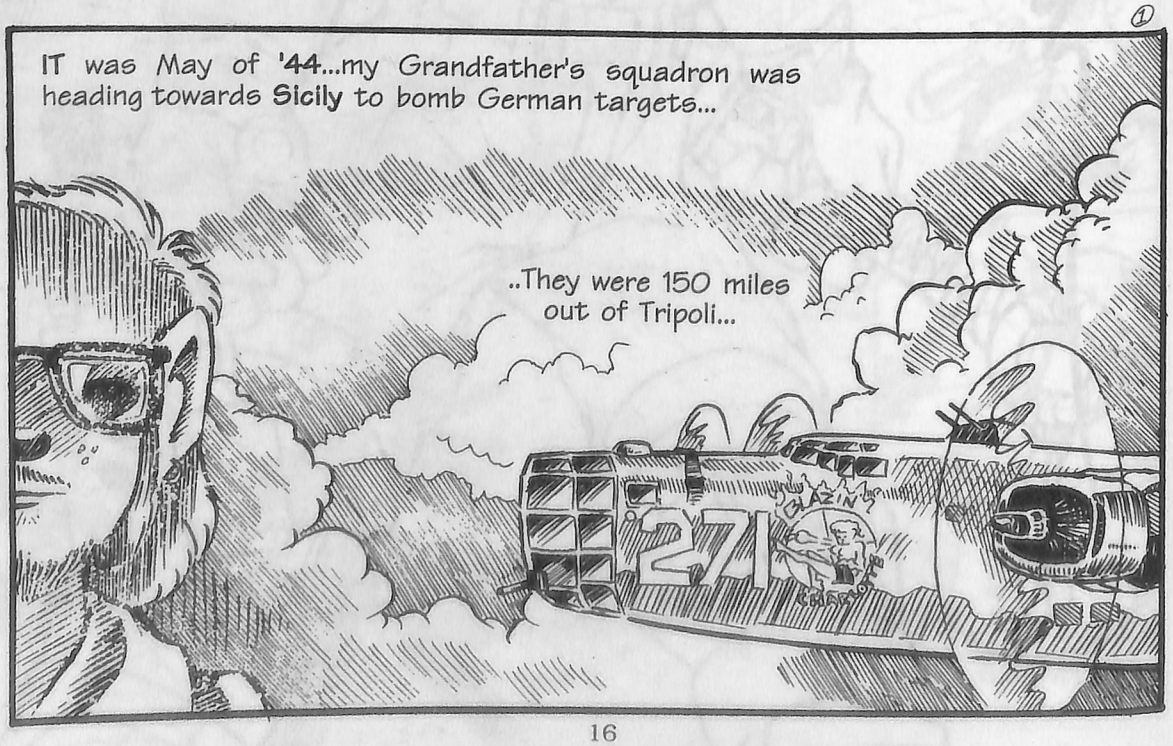
☆ TO MY FAMILY... PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ... WITH LOVE...

BLAZIN' CHARLOTTE

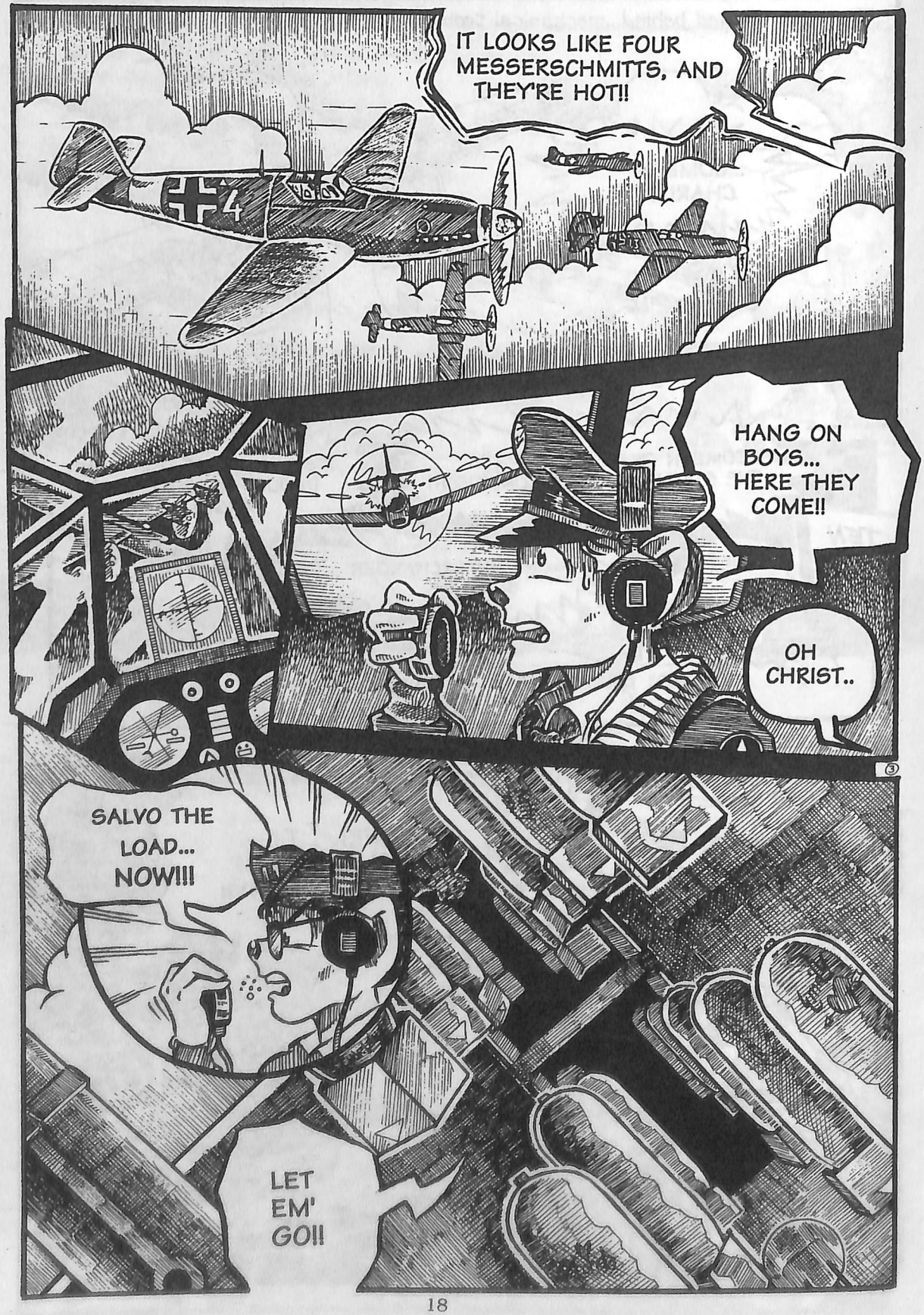
Story and Art by Dean Lee Norton © 1994

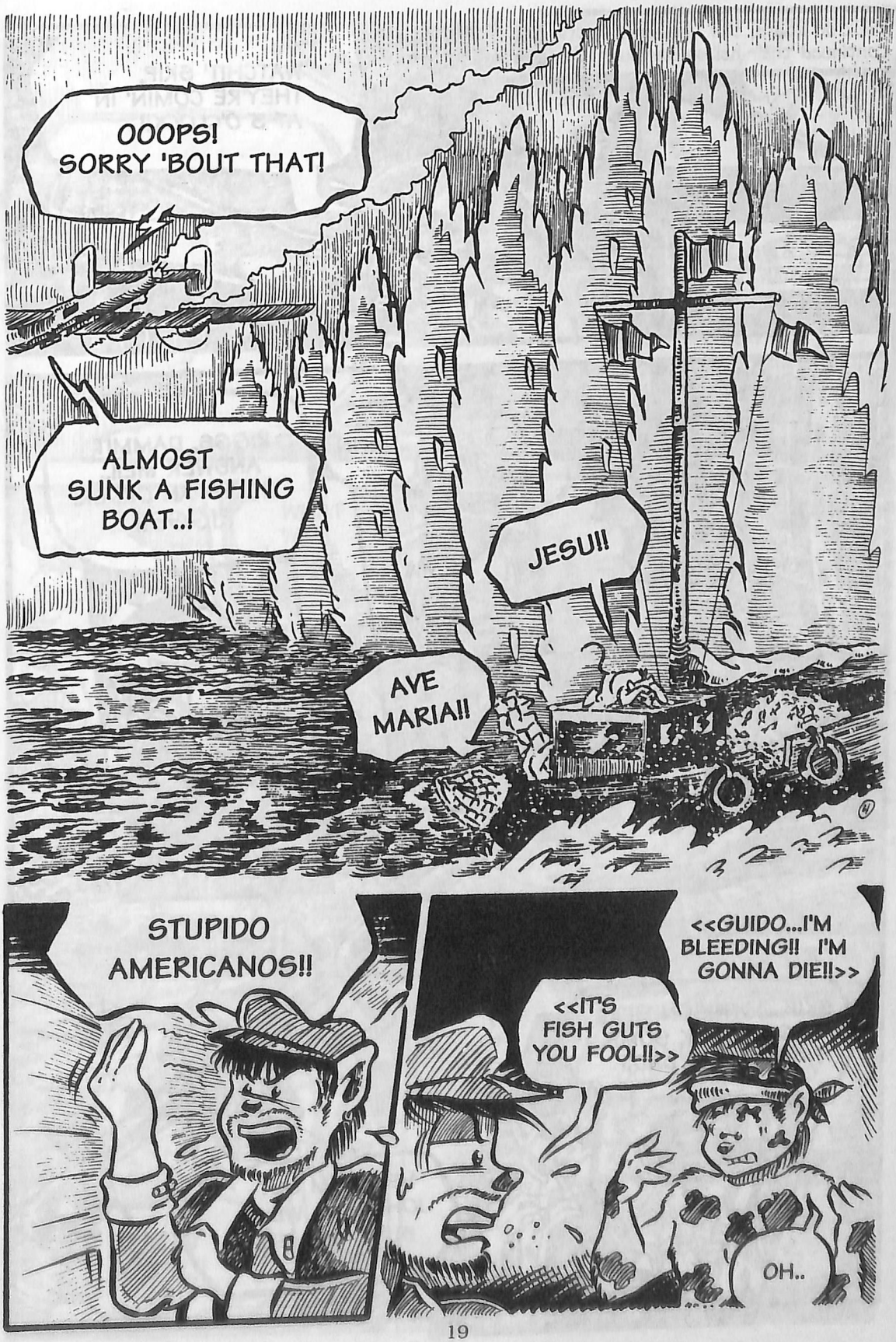
Loosely based on the letters of LT. H.D. Hoatson 1916 - 1947

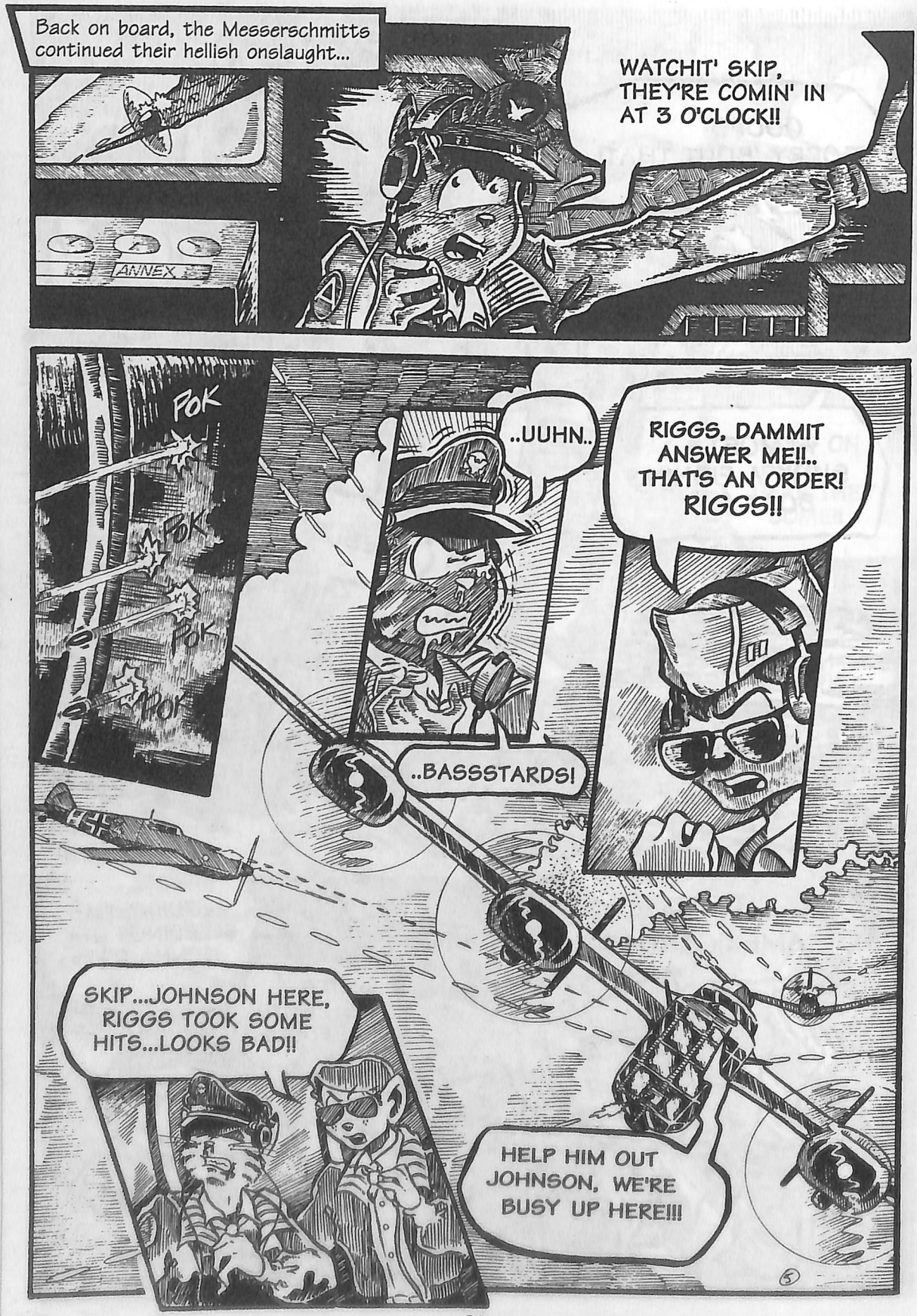
SOUNDTRACK: "ON YOUR SHORE" & "WATERMARK" BY ENYA --

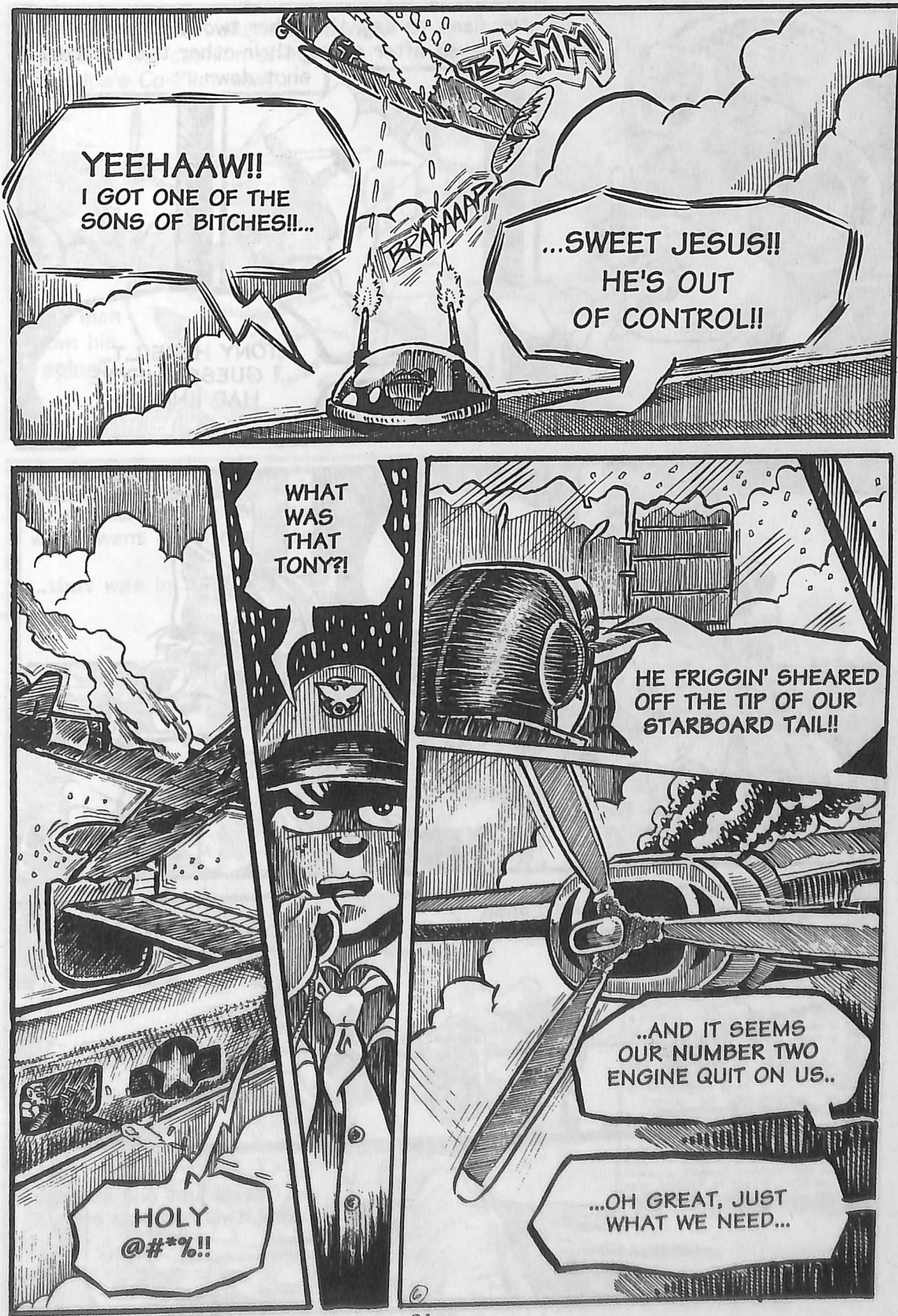

1
IT was May of '44...my Grandfather's squadron was heading towards Sicily to bomb German targets...
..They were 150 miles out of Tripoli...
BLAZIN' CHARLOTTE
27

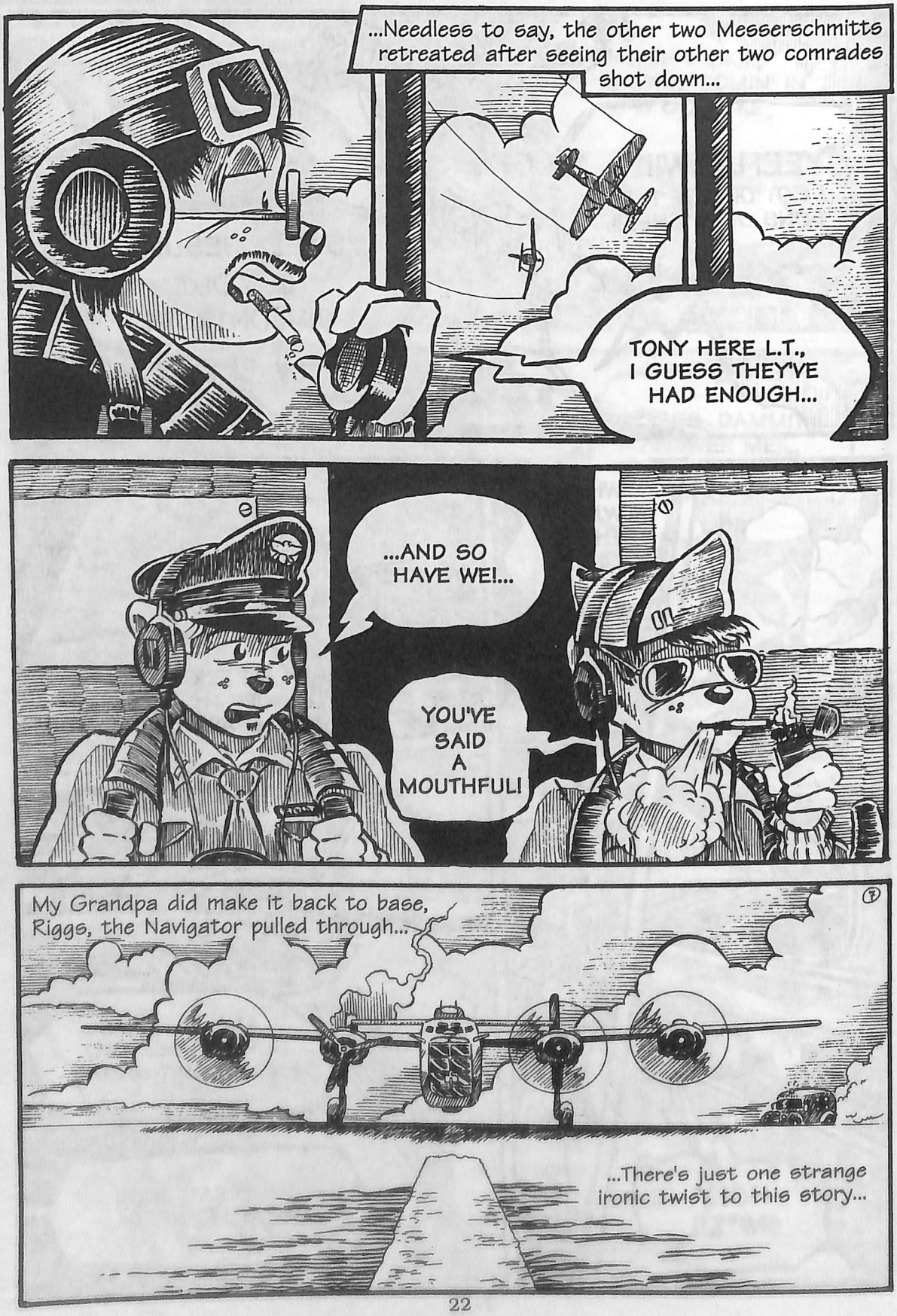
...Their ship lagged behind...mechanical trouble...
...COME IN CHARLOTTE...
...COME IN CHARLOTTE, WHAT'S THE STATUS ON YOUR CONDITION?!
IT'S FUBAR'D AT THIS POINT, I DOUBT WE'LL MAKE TO TARGET...
TEN MILES BACK...
--ONE SUPERCHARGER BLOWN!!--
FEATHERING NUMBER TWO ENGINE..
JUST THEN...
SKIPPER! L.T.!! - WE'VE PICKED UP SOME COMPANY!!
WE'RE GONNA HEAD BACK TO BASE...
..WHILE WE STILL CAN...


IT LOOKS LIKE FOUR MESSERSCHMITTS, AND THEY'RE HOT!!
HANG ON BOYS... HERE THEY COME!!
OH CHRIST..
SALVO THE LOAD... NOW!!!
LET EM' GO!!


OOOPS! SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
ALMOST SUNK A FISHING BOAT..!
JESU!!
AVE MARIA!!
STUPIDO AMERICANOS!!
<<IT'S FISH GUTS YOU FOOL!!>>
<<GUIDO...I'M BLEEDING!! I'M GONNA DIE!!>>
OH..


Back on board, the Messerschmitts continued their hellish onslaught...
WATCHIT' SKIP, THEY'RE COMIN' IN AT 3 O'CLOCK!!
ANNEX
POK
POK
POK
POK
..UUHN..
RIGGS, DAMMIT ANSWER ME!!.. THAT'S AN ORDER! RIGGS!!
..BASSSTARDS!
SKIP...JOHNSON HERE, RIGGS TOOK SOME HITS...LOOKS BAD!!
HELP HIM OUT JOHNSON, WE'RE BUSY UP HERE!!!


YEEHAAW!!
I GOT ONE OF THE SONS OF BITCHES!!...
BLAMM
BRAAAAAP
...SWEET JESUS!! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!!
WHAT WAS THAT TONY?!
HE FRIGGIN' SHEARED OFF THE TIP OF OUR STARBOARD TAIL!!
HOLY @#*%!!
..AND IT SEEMS OUR NUMBER TWO ENGINE QUIT ON US..
...OH GREAT, JUST WHAT WE NEED...


...Needless to say, the other two Messerschmitts retreated after seeing their other two comrades shot down...
TONY HERE L.T., I GUESS THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH...
...AND SO HAVE WE!...
YOU'VE SAID A MOUTHFUL!
My Grandpa did make it back to base, Riggs, the Navigator pulled through...
...There's just one strange ironic twist to this story...

A 20mm German slug was found lodged in the cushion of my Grandpa's Co-Pilot seat...

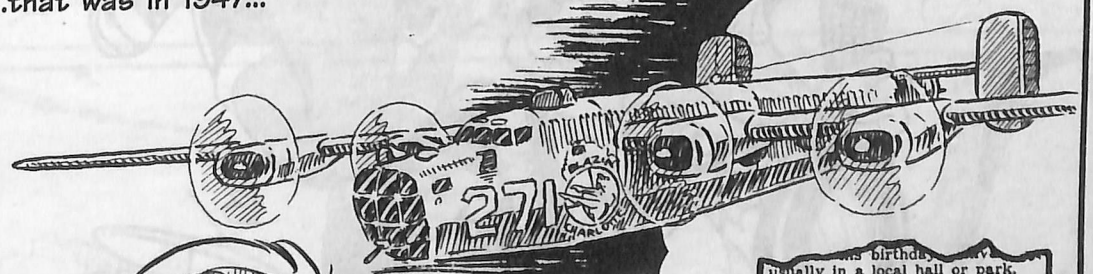
!

..One inch from his spine!!

"GULP"

What makes this so ironic, is that my Grandpa was killed piloting an experimental helicopter which went down near Compton, California...

...that was in 1947...



usually in a local hall or park.

Former Topekan Killed In Helicopter Accident

Homer Dean Hoatson, 31, Huntington Park, Calif., who was killed Sunday in a helicopter crash near Compton, Calif., is a former Topekan. Before World War II, he made his home in Topeka with his grandmother, Mrs. J. M. Leeper. He was graduated from Boswell Junior High School, Topeka High School and Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind.

During the war, he was a pilot of a B-24 bomber. From bases in Italy, he completed 50 missions over enemy territory. Since he was discharged six months ago, he was an architectural engineeer at Huntington Park.

Besides his grandmother, he leaves his wife, Mrs. Edith Hoatson; three small children, Dana, Sandra and Pamela Hoaotson; his father, Lowell Hoatson, Indianapolis; and a sister, Mrs. Lee Clerico, Wichita. Funeral services will be next Monday at the Wall-Diffen-

..Strange..

BLAZIN'

...I never knew him...

END

*A SPECIAL THANX GOES TO RANDY SALTER, GREG GOODEN, AL DAVIS & ESPECIALLY TO JOSH QUAGMIRE....

Risoko

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Kirby, are you sure we should be doing this?
Relax, I know what I'm doing. This isn't my first time, you know.
But what if it doesn't fit?
Don't worry, I'll make it fit!
But, what if we conceive some demonic beast by accident?
What do you think I am, cursed?
It's just that I'd hate to lose it at such an early age. After all, its a gift from my Mama and Papa I can never replace.
Look, I'll do all the work. You just lie there and watch.
STORY: JOHN DIGIORGIO
ART: CHRIS TENNARO

All right.
But be gentle!
Gentle?
She broke this thing!
I'm just trying
to fix it!
TIE
DROP
OW!
SHUUSH!
GIK!

KIRBY!!
CHOKE
Ku. . . Kuh. . .
Quick! Sca. . .
Scatter the cards,
before. . .
PULL!
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
Ooops. . .
Kirby?
PUFF!

Hang on Kirby. I'll save you from the dark dimension.
Eeh, now how did he open that portal?
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
I've got to learn to pay more attention.
Did the cards go like this?
Nooo.
Oh, like this!
Noooo.
How about this?
FOOZZZ
There.

WIGGLE WIGGLE
Jump, Kirby. Grab my hand!
HEY!
EEK!
Errrmm! Stretch those hairy ears, you old wizard!

You're not Kirby!
SHOVE
HEY?
Maybe this way?
SKYSH
YIPES!
YEAH!

WAK!
?
Thank you, Kirby. Its as good as new!
SHING!
Nothing to it . . .
Hey, Risuko. Think you can put that sword down long enough to help up an old wizard?
TO BE CONTINUED...

UNI-UNIVERSE
OOOOOH! I'M BORED AND SCARED AND I WANT TO GO HOME! I'M A BOTANIST, NOT A SOLDIER!
TISH! HAVE NO FEAR, DEAR LADY! WE ARE LICENSED PRIVATEERS... WHY, WHEN YOUR RANSOM IS PAID, YOU WILL BE RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND! 'TIS BUT A TRIFLING INCONVENIENCE, I'M SURE.
BETHANY PEREGRINE
YOU! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! THE FOOD IS LOUSY, I DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, AND I HAVEN'T HAD A BATH IN WEEKS!
WE DO THE BEST WE CAN...
UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES.
GEEZ

5/92

KOF AND THEN THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF RAVISHMENT..!
GASP MADAME, I AM FRANKLY SHOCKED AT YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS, BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU...
LANCE
AND THAT RUST-BUCKET— IT'LL NEVER GET US OFF THIS ROCK..
I'VE GOT THIS PREMONITION...
WE'LL BE MAROONED FOREVER!
THE "NIMBLE HUSSY" WILL BE SPACEWORTHY IN A FEW DAYS. BUT— IF I MAY BE SO BLUNT— YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT YOU CAN'T ADJUST TO MISFORTUNE!
FEH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ADVERSITY? JUST LET GO OF NOT WANTING IT, AND YOU'RE FREE!
AOOGAH AOOGAH
LEARN THIS WELL, FAIR PHYLLIDA.
HEY...
FUDDOOM
SOB MAROONED FOREVER!
JUST LET GO OF NOT WANTING ADVERSITY! WOW! WHAT AN INTERESTING CONCEPT!
WELL?

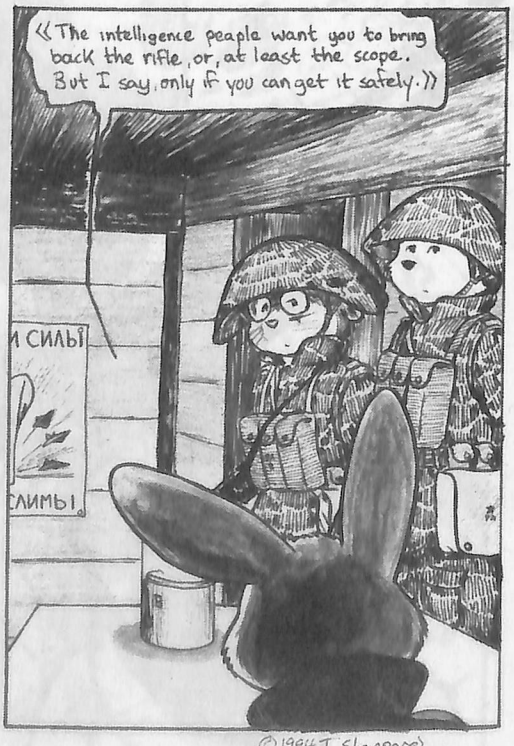
TED SHERMAN'S

Stosstrupp

Eurasian trenches outside Novogorod, Midnight, 19 May 2028
«Oh- Sorry, am I late, sir?»
«No, not at all, Belenko, This is Pvt. Nebogatov, he will be going with you.»

«Bring some combat rations with you. You will not find any food in Novogorod. I will get you some night vision goggles and a map.»

«We will create decoy targets to draw the snipers fire. There are usally 2 of them, sniper and assistant. Avoid a shoot out, find them, sneak up on them, use your grenades, then find a place to hide until our next attack.»



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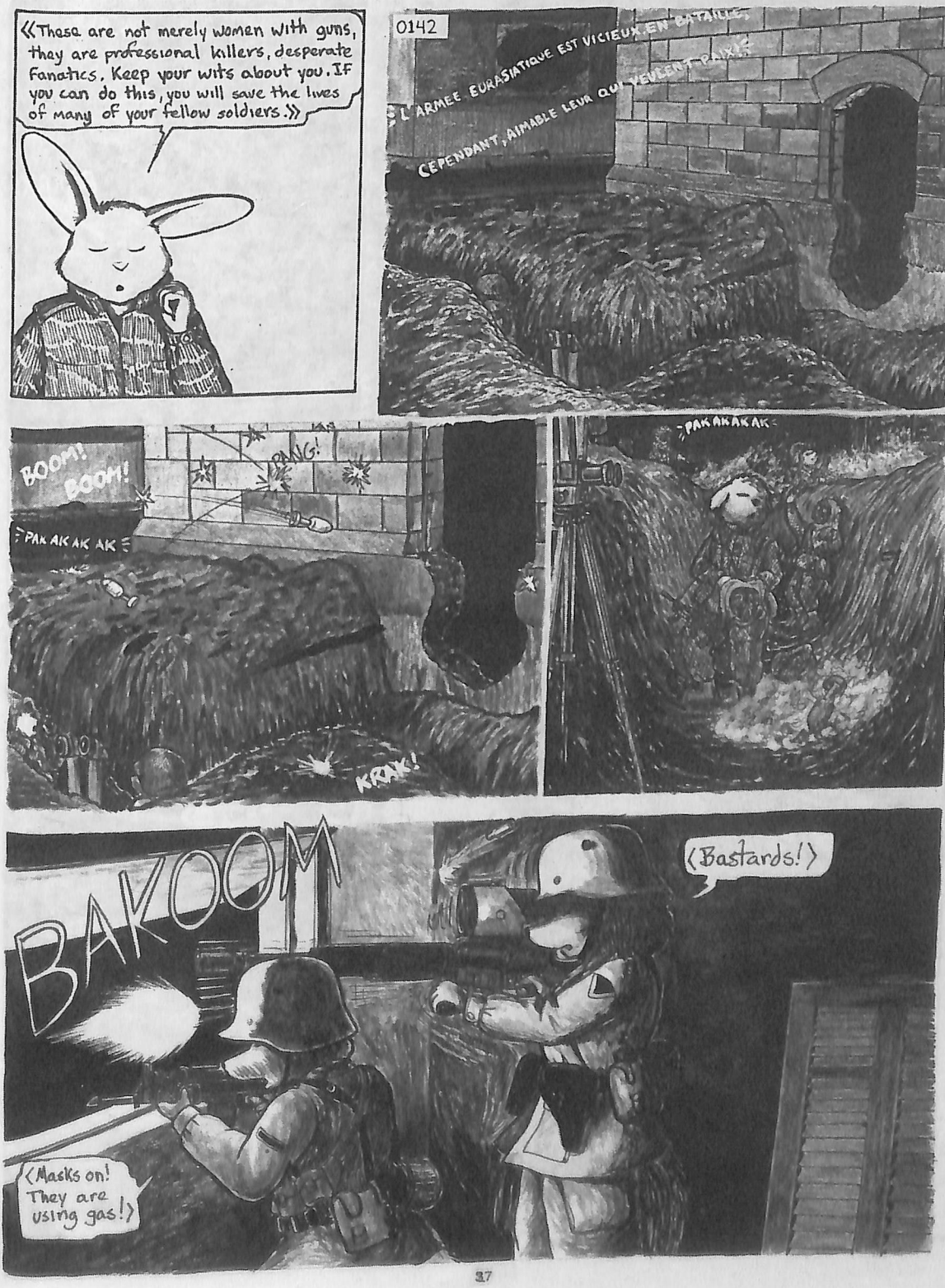

«These are not merely women with guns, they are professional killers, desperate fanatics. Keep your wits about you. If you can do this, you will save the lives of many of your fellow soldiers.»
0142
L'ARMEE EURASIATIQUE EST VICIEUX EN BATAILLE
CEPENDANT, AIMABLE LEUR QUI VEULENT PAIX.
BOOM! BOOM!
PAK AK AK AK
PANG!
KRAK!
PAK AK AK AK
BAKOOM
«Bastards!»
«Masks on! They are using gas!»

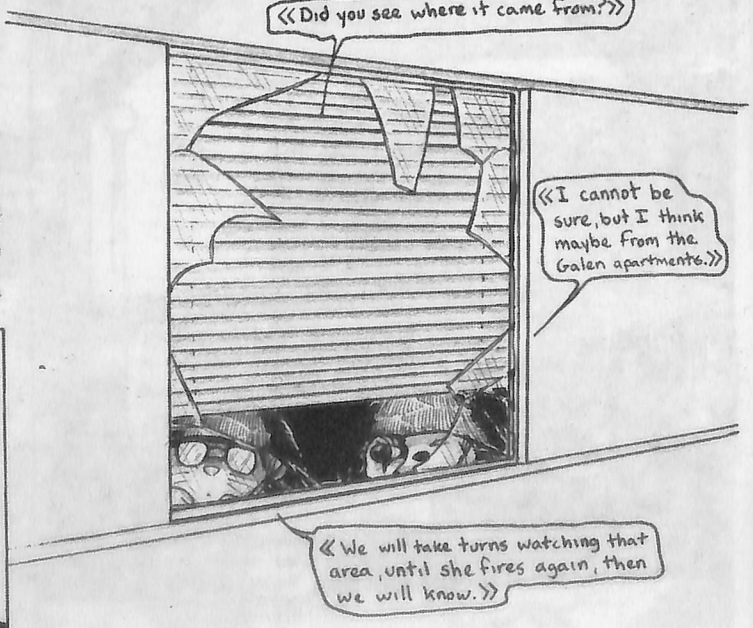
BRRRAK!
BRRRAK!
BAKOOM
BRRRK!
PAK-AK-AK!
<They are pulling back already! I thought for sure this would be it...>
0530
<That Lieutenant said Ivan used vomiting gas on them last night.>
<They are getting impatient with us.>
Team 2, Team 2!
<Von Reizend here...>

Hier sprict Rebbecca. Wo ist sie, Eva?
Ein Warenhaus
Gehen Sie zum Kirche, warten sie auf Mich.
Einverstanden!
«It is the sniper!»
«There are too many people to try anything now.»
«At least we know which direction to look.»
〈No, he's Vietnamese-French. Anyways, I noticed some Frenchies heading off to Ivan's place with a big white flag!〉
〈So I asked him about it, and he said they were General Beron's officers going to discuss terms!〉
〈Anyways, we found this pantry filled with cans of food, so we brought you some, but we gave most of it to the soldiers on the front line, they need it the most.〉
〈So I was talking to this French officer—〉
〈You speak French, Rebbecca?〉

〈It's only a matter of a day or two, and Beron will order all Europa forces in Novogorod to surrender.〉
〈Does the Captain know about this?〉
〈Yes, we told her.〉
〈She will know what to do.〉

〈Well, in the meantime, let's not let Ivan have things too easy.〉
〈Alright, but let's stay together.〉

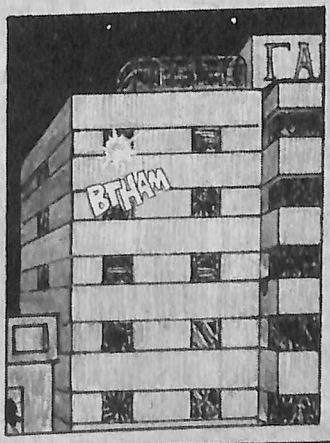
Later...


«Did you see where it came from?»
«I cannot be sure, but I think maybe from the Galen apartments.»
«We will take turns watching that area, until she fires again, then we will know.»

Hmmm...

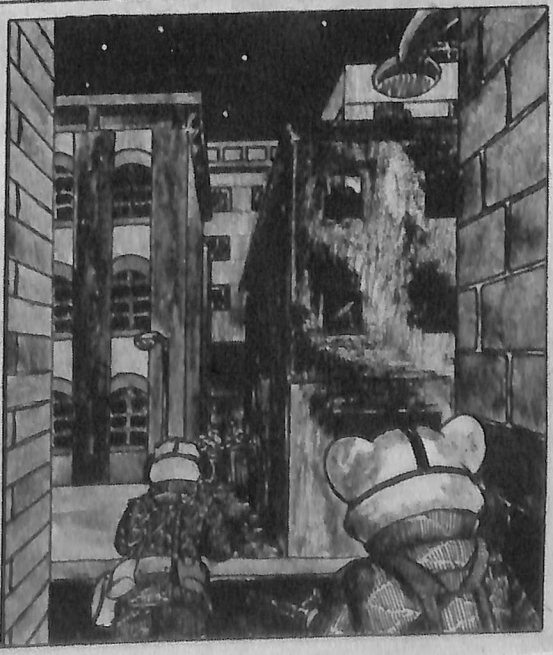
2115
«Keep the movements realistic!»
«Why do you not do this? You think you are so smart!»

‹0480, in the trench!›
‹Got it!›


ГА
ВТЧАМ

«I saw it! I saw exactly where it came from!»

«Galen apartments, 5th floor, far left window.»
«Good! Leave your helmet here. If we should be seen, perhaps they will not realize who we are in the dark.»



LEGEND

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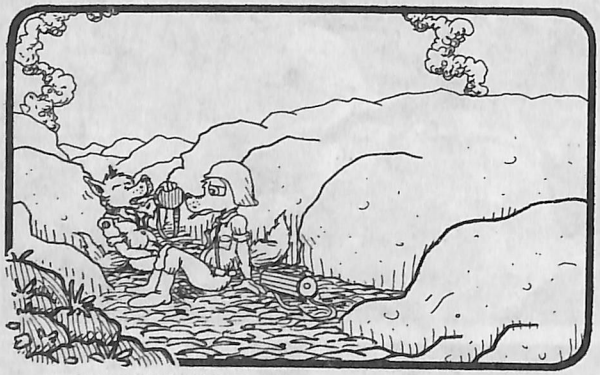


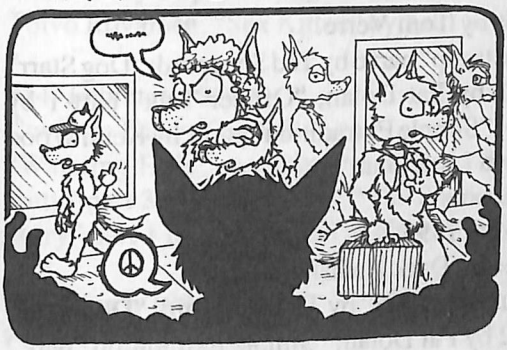
...IT'S A PRETTY BASIC TALE, ONE THAT HAS BEEN TOLD AND RE-TOLD THROUGHOUT OUR STORIES OF FOLKLORE, FANTASY, AND ADVENTURE!
=SKREEK=
=SKREEK=

"SEEMS A BENEVOLENT ALIEN RACE COMES TO VISIT OUR PLANET TO TRY TO HELP US BECOME PEACEFUL... A SINGLE TRAVELER ARRIVES IN A SPACE SHIP IMPERVIOUS TO ATTACK."

"HE TAKES OUR FORM SO AS NOT TO FRIGHTEN ANYONE... HE DECLARES THAT HE IS ON A PEACEFUL MISSION AND IS HERE TO HELP US..."

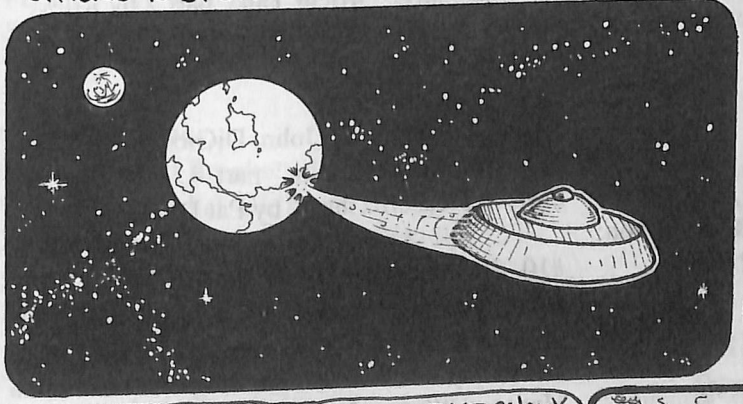
"NOW, HE REALLY DOES HAVE THE POWER TO SOLVE OUR PLANET'S PROBLEMS, BUT CANNOT DO SO UNLESS WE TRULY WANT IT..."

...SO, HE SEARCHES THE PLANET HOPING TO FIND SOME ONE WILLING TO LISTEN TO HIM AND ACCEPT HIS OFFER. TO HIS ALARM, HE FINDS NO-ONE WITH AN OPEN MIND OR HEART...



...IN FACT, HE IS CONSIDERED A CRANK, A LOONY TOON, AND SOME SORT OF FREAK! MOBS CHASE HIM WHERE-EVER HE GOES, AND THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO KILL HIM!"

"FED-UP, AND HIS MISSION AN UTTER FAILURE, HE IMMEDIATELY LEAVES AND NEVER RETURNS, WARNING OTHERS TO STEER CLEAR OF OUR PLANET... THE END."



-AND THE MORAL IS?

~WHAT?! THEN WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF YOU TELLIN' ME ALLA THAT?!?

WELL, IT JUST SHOWS HOW DUMB WE ALL ARE, A PATHETIC BUNCH OF FOOLS....

-RE-E-E-EAL DUMB...

FURRLOUGH
OFFICIAL INDEX

#1- November 1991
Cover by Stephan Peregrine.
"Untitled" by Noel Tominack & Pete Stoller; "Panzercorps: The Prototype" by Brian Sutton, Steve Blake, & M. Dutchman; "Empires: Thunderhead" part 1 by Chris Grant, Lance Rund, & Eric Elliot; "Romanics: Ferae Bestiae" by Joe Rosales; "Stosstrupp" part 1 by Ted Sheppard; "Chet & Valentine" by Eric Gilreath & Alex Tucker; "At the Mercy of Love" by Riley.

#2- February 1992
Cover by Brian Sutton.
"Romanics: Res Futura" by Joe Rosales; "Why Desert Winds Howl" part 1 by Riley; "Stosstrupp" part 2 by Ted Sheppard.

#3- May 1992
Cover by Shon Howell.
"Stosstrupp" part 3 by Ted Sheppard; "Panzercorps: Rainy Season" by Brian Sutton; "Why Desert Winds Howl" part 2 by Riley.

#4- August 1992
Cover by Tom Verre.
"Stosstrupp" part 4 by Ted Sheppard; "Romanics: Gravia Avspicia" by Joe Rosales; "Dobberman Thule Mk. 6" by Jerry Collins.

#5- November 1992
Cover by Phil Morrissey.
"Final Cliche" by Dusty Rhoades & Mark Stanley; "Stosstrupp" part 5 by Ted Sheppard; "True Enemy" by Genesis Cook & Chuck Dillon; "Why Desert Winds Howl" part 3 by Riley.

#6- January 1993
Cover by Stephan Peregrine.
"Romanics: Viri Magni Momenti" by Joe Rosales; "Hairlift" by Toivo Rovainen, James Ernst, & Carol Monahan; "The Last Step" by Todd Sutherland & Charles Davies.

#7- March 1993
Cover by Tom Verre.
"Stosstrupp" part 6 by Ted Sheppard; "Dog Starr" part 1 by Pat Dolan; "Officer Talk" part 1 by Riley; "Simple Extradition" part 1 by Keith Wood & Kyla Littlejohn.

#8- May 1993
Cover by Dark Natasha.
"Germany, 1945" by Ted Sheppard; "Dog Starr" part 2 by Pat Dolan; "Simple Extradition" part 2 by Keith Wood & Kyla Littlejohn; "Colonel Bogey" by Mel. White; "Stosstrupp" part 7 by Ted Sheppard; "Officer Talk" part 2 by Riley.

#9- July 1993
Cover by Tom Verre.
"Risuko" part 1 by John DiGiorgio & Chris Tennaro; "UnderRealm" part 1 & 2 by Fred Perry; "Treasure Chest" by Pat Dolan.

#10- September 1993
Cover by Dark Natasha.
"Walter Kitty" part 1 by Mark Shaw; "Ice Cream Parlor" by Jeff Wood; "Star Magic" by Christina Hanson; "Know Your Anthropomorphics" by Kurt Wilcken.

#11- November 1993
Cover by Robert Hill.
"Stosstrupp" part 8 by Ted Sheppard; "UnderRealm" part 3 by Fred Perry; "The Walker" part 1 by Jordan Graywolf; "Desert Storm" by Jimmy Chin; "Recoiless" by Jim Groat; pinup by Toivo Rovainen.

#12- December 1993
Cover by William Haas.
"Walter Kitty" part 2 by Mark Shaw; "Scud" by Jim Groat; "Bomb Kitty" by Bill Fitts & Dan Seneres; "Conrad's Commandoes" by Andrew

Hume; pinups by Pat Kelley, Charles Davies; Scott Alston & Fred Perry.

#13- January 1994
Cover by Pat Kelley.
"Watering Hole" part 1 by Pat Kelley; "Bat Lancers" by Stephan Peregrine; "Game Over" by Toivo Rovainen; "Sex Kitten" by Kurt Wilcken.

#14- February 1994
Cover by Cindy Crowell.
"Watering Hole" part 2 by Pat Kelley; "Walter Kitty" part 3 by Mark Shaw; "The Sound & the Furry" part 1 by Eric Oppen & Kurt Wilcken.

#15- March 1994
Cover by Mike Dashow.
"Stosstrupp" part 9 by Ted Sheppard; "Collars & Cuffs" by Robin Lane & Dennis Clark; "Target Practice" by Bill Fitts & Dan Seneres; "The Sound & the Furry" part 2 by Eric Oppen & Kurt Wilcken.

#16- April 1994
Cover by Scott Brooks.
"Live by the Bullet, Die by the Blade" by Randy Zimmerman & Scott Brooks; "Watering Hole" part 3 by Pat Kelley; "Coven A'My House" by Kurt Wilcken.

#17- May 1994
Cover by Pat Kelley.
"Here Comes a Candle" part 1 by Mary Hanson-Roberts; "The Sound & the Furry" part 3 by Eric Oppen &Kurt Wilcken; "Samurai Mice" by Stephan Peregrine.

#18- June 1994
Cover by Ted Sheppard.
"Stosstrupp" part 10 by Ted Sheppard; "Here Comes a Candle" part 2 by Mary Hanson-Roberts; "Girls Night Out" by Robin Lane & Dennis Clark; pinups by Shon Howell.

#19- July 1994
Cover by Scott Brooks.
"The Adventure" by Mary Ann Lewis & Scott Brooks; "Here Comes a Candle" part 4 by Mary Hanson-Roberts.

#20- August 1994
Cover by Sonny Strait.
"Jack" part 1 by Sonny Strait; "Here Comes a Candle" part 3 by Mary Hanson-Roberts; "The Sound & the Furry" part 4 by Eric Oppen & Kurt Wilcken.

#21- September 1994
Cover by Richard Bartrop.
"Zaibatsu Tears" part 1 by Richard Bartrop; "Here Comes a Candle" part 5 by Mary Hanson-Roberts; "Mandala" by Stephan Peregrine.

#22- October 1994
Cover by Mary Hanson-Roberts.
"Here Comes a Candle" part 6 by Mary Hanson-Roberts; "Guardian Knights: The Renegar Affair" part 1 by Tygger & Dean Graf; "Zaibatsu Tears" part 2 by Richard Bartrop; "One Rainy Night in a Foxhole" by Carl Gafford; pinup by Chris Tennaro.

"Anastasia"
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УТО ТЫ СЕЛАЛ АЛЯ ФРОНТА?

The American Journal of Anthropomorphics

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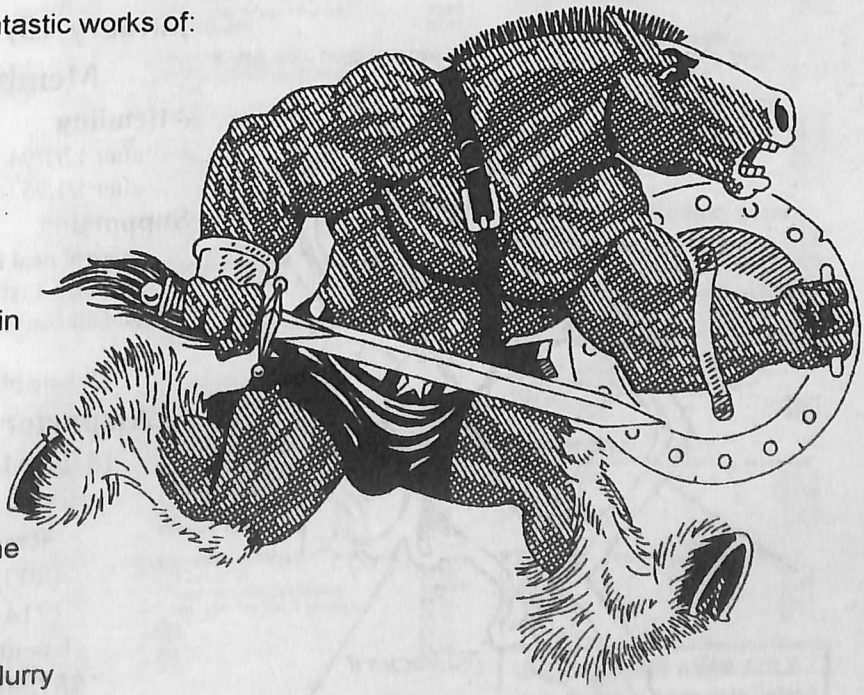

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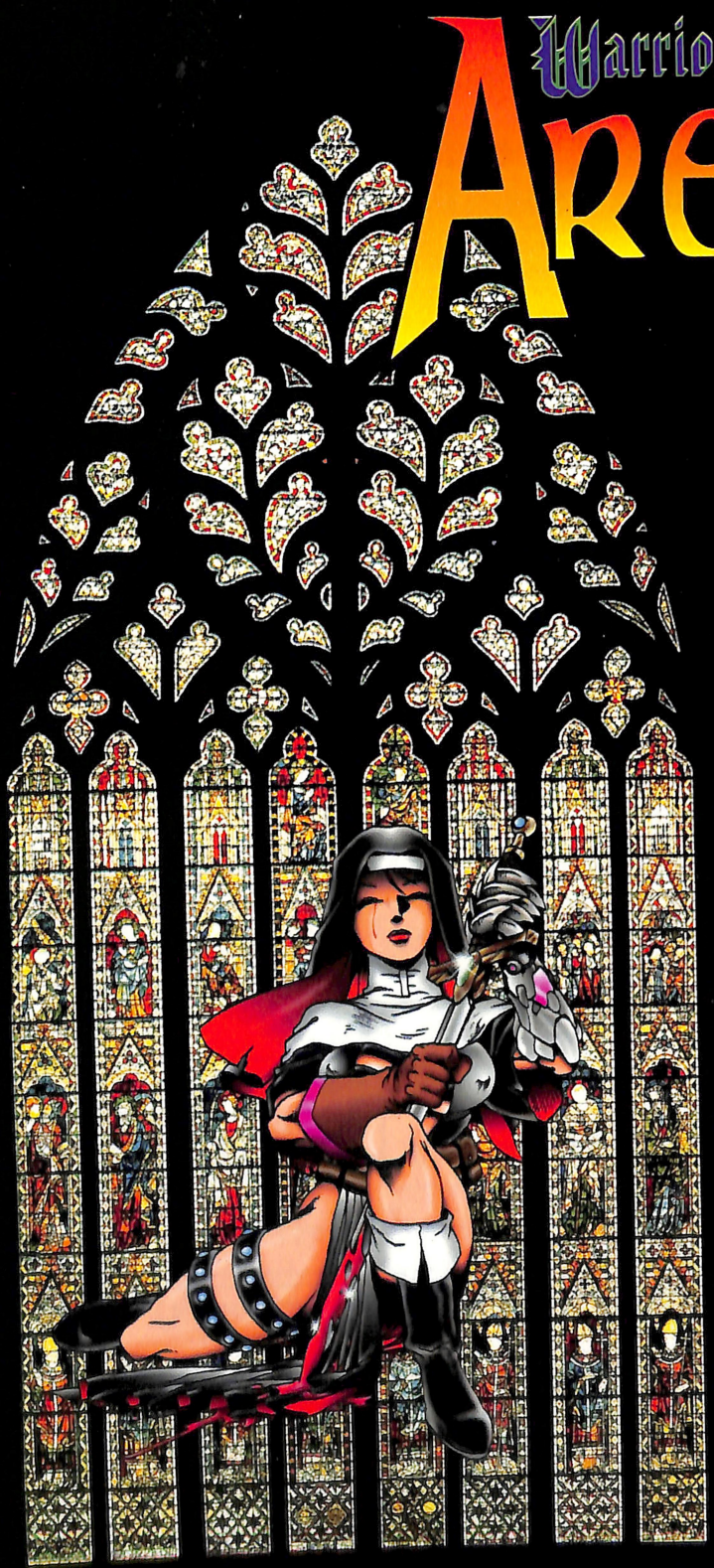

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